

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-16 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9 and 11 are amended, and claim 16 is newly added. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (U.S. Patent No. 7,265,859) in view of Inaba et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,466,327) and Koga (U.S. Patent No. 5,717,794).

Applicants' claim 1, as currently amended, recites a scanner for reading an original document and forwarding read data to a designated terminal. The scanner includes, inter alia, an operating panel configured to input and display processing conditions. The processing conditions include file format information, resolution power information, image processing method information, and density information. The operating panel displays icons indicating a selected file format, resolution power, image processing method, and density at least when the operating panel displays a screen for designating the terminal and when the operating panel displays a screen for designating the processing condition.

Applicants' claim 9, as currently amended, recites a scanner for reading an original document and forwarding read data to a designated terminal. The scanner includes, inter alia, a reading unit that reads an original document by scanning and generating corresponding image data, and an operating panel. The operating panel is configured to allow an operator to select image processing conditions of the image data. The image processing conditions include a file name, a file format, resolution power,

image processing method, and density. The operating panel is configured to display icons indicating a selected file format, resolution power, image processing method, and density at least when the operating panel displays a screen for designating the terminal and displays a screen for designating the image processing conditions.

Sato discloses an image processing apparatus having an operation unit 1012. Inaba et al. discloses a reader unit 1 having an operation panel. Koga et al. discloses a document recognition system 10 having a user interface unit 102.

Applicants respectfully submit that Sato's operation unit 1012, Inaba's operation panel, and Koga's user interface unit 102 do not display icons indicating a selected file format, resolution power, image processing method, and density while displaying a screen for designating a terminal or displaying a screen for designating a processing condition. Applicants further submit that such features are not obvious in view of the combined teachings of these references.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Sato, Inaba et al., and Koga et al. fail to disclose or suggest a scanner which includes an operating panel that displays icons indicating a selected file format, resolution power, image processing method, and density at least when the operating panel displays a screen for designating a terminal and when the operating panel displays a screen for designating a processing condition, as recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 9.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that the inventions recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 9 are not obvious in view of Sato, Inaba et al., and Koga et al., and request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and allow these claims.

Applicants submit that claims 3-8 and 10-15 are also in condition for allowance, in view of their dependency from claims 1 and 9.

Applicants have added new independent claim 16 for the Examiner's consideration. Claim 16 recites a scanner for reading an original document and forwarding read data to a designated terminal connected to a network. The scanner includes an operating panel configured to input and display processing conditions. The processing conditions include file format information and a file name. The scanner also includes a controller that acquires the processing conditions from the operating panel, reads an original document, generates transmission data according to the file format information and the file name input from the operation panel, and forwards the transmission data to a designated terminal according to the acquired processing conditions.

In the Response Applicants filed on February 29, 2008, Applicants argued that, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Sato's operation unit 2012 does not allow a user to input a file name. The Examiner is referred to Applicants' discussion of claim 4 on pages 8 and 9 of the Response. However, the Examiner did not address this argument in the Final Office Action.

Thus, Applicants once again submit that the portions of Sato cited by the Examiner as allegedly teaching the feature of inputting and displaying a file name merely discloses that Sato's image compression unit 2040 performs compression and decompression processes according to various formats, and the operation unit 2012 includes soft and hard keys. See col. 5, lines 20-30 and col. 6, lines 16-27 of Sato.

Applicants respectfully submit that these portions are silent as to inputting a file name from the operation unit 2012.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that newly added claim 16 is in condition for allowance.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

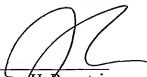
Reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and believed to be appropriate. Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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